

## **CHAPTER I**

### **STATEWIDE AND AGENCY STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS**

#### **STATEWIDE VISION, MISSION, AND PHILOSOPHY FOR TEXAS STATE GOVERNMENT**

##### **Governor's Statewide Vision**

Together, we can make Texas a beacon state:

a state where our children receive an excellent education so they have the knowledge and skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> century;

a state where people feel safe in their communities, have access to equal justice, and all people know the consequences of committing a crime are swift and sure;

a state where our institutions encourage jobs and economic opportunity;

a state where each resident accepts responsibility for his or her behavior;  
and

a state where our people – our greatest resource – are free to achieve their highest potential.

As I have said before, I envision a state where it continues to be true that what Texans can dream, Texans can do.

##### **Statewide Mission**

The mission of Texas state government is to support and promote individual and community efforts to achieve and sustain social and economic prosperity for its citizens.

## Statewide Philosophy

State government will be ethical, accountable and dedicated to serving the citizens of Texas well. State government will operate efficiently and spend the public's money wisely.

State government will be based on four core principles that will guide decision-making processes.

- **Limited and Efficient Government**—Government cannot solve every problem or meet every need. State government should do a few things and do them well.
- **Local Control**—The best form of government is one that is closest to the people. State government should respect the right and ability of local communities to resolve issues that affect them. The state must avoid imposing unfunded mandates.
- **Personal Responsibility**—It is up to each individual, not government, to make responsible decisions about his or her life. Personal responsibility is the key to a more decent and just society. State employees, too, must be accountable for their actions.
- **Support for Strong Families**—The family is the backbone of society and, accordingly, state government must pursue policies that nurture and strengthen Texas families.

Texas state government should serve the needs of our state but also be mindful of those who pay the bills. By providing the best service at the lowest cost and working in concert with other partners, state government can effectively direct the public's resources to create a positive impact on the lives of individual Texans. The people of Texas expect the best, and state government must give it to them.

## STATEWIDE FUNCTIONAL GOALS AND BENCHMARKS

The Governor's Office of Budget and Planning developed functional goals and benchmarks for Texas state government. The following statewide functional goals and benchmarks are related to Texas Department of Health's activities:

### Priority Goal for Health and Human Services

- To reduce dependence on public assistance through an efficient and effective system that promotes the health, responsibility, and self-sufficiency of individuals and families.

#### Relevant Benchmarks

- Incidence of vaccine-preventable disease
- Infant mortality rate
- Teen pregnancy rate
- Low birth-weight rate
- Number of persons enrolled in Medicaid
- Incidence of confirmed cases of abuse, neglect, or death of children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, or spouses

### Priority Goal for Regulatory Services

- To ensure that Texas consumers are effectively and efficiently served by high-quality professionals and businesses by setting clear standards, maintaining compliance, and seeking market-based solutions.

#### Relevant Benchmark

- Percent of state professional licensee population without documented violations.

### **Agency Vision Statement**

Our vision is that people realize their best health.

### **Agency Mission Statement**

Our mission is to enliven communities to improve, protect, and promote their health.

## AGENCY PHILOSOPHY

We believe in the power of community to help people realize their best health. A person participates in a community when that person has a sense of belonging, a connection, an identity with a particular group or individual. This sense of belonging is what we call “community”. The communities in Texas are as many and diverse as the state is big. We deliberately and continuously seek to learn from these communities, and adjust course in our approach to public health when needed. We serve as a leader in facilitating solutions to health concerns identified by people within these communities.

We commit to working through communities to:

- identify root causes of behaviors which lead to unhealthy outcomes;
- determine the sources of resilience in achieving healthy outcomes;
- eliminate health disparities among the state’s minority populations;
- foster an environment in which people can achieve their best health;
- build local capacity to provide a continuum of quality health care to diverse populations; and
- obtain sustainable public health improvement.

Four principles guide our work:

- Support community-based solutions;
- Ensure that public health efforts lead to improved health outcomes;
- Make prevention the priority of public health efforts; and
- Carry out the state’s leadership role.

This philosophy drives us to continually assess and refine our efforts to work through communities so that all people can achieve their own best health.

